

Have you ever discussed singleness with one of your Church leaders on a one to one basis?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes at their instigation		7.6%	198
Yes at my request		25.7%	667
Would have liked to but didn't feel confident to ask		25.5%	661
No have never wanted to		41.2%	1,070
Any further comments on the above			634
answered question			2,596
skipped question			573

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1	i am very afraid to ask questions to spiritual leaders for fear of their response to me overall.	Oct 22, 2012 3:25 PM
2	I did discuss with my Pastor who at one stage suggested I needed to take my hands off it, only to be told a year later I need to hurry up, then to be told I need to take my hands off it. Wanting to be married is not an obsession for me as I have seen others who are obsessed to be married and when they do, are still unhappy.	Oct 8, 2012 4:14 AM
3	They agree but nothing is ever done. I found that there is only a few genuine christian sites, the free sites draw all types of people. Again my experience has been very prejudiced.	Sep 30, 2012 7:11 AM
4	I don't look to my church to sort out my divorcee singleness. However I always keep an eye out for suitable single men my age on outreaches in particular. Truth is there hardly are any single men. I would like my church to do more outreaches	Sep 27, 2012 3:31 PM
5	They are really open talking about it.	Sep 25, 2012 2:17 PM
6	I part of the church since the beginning of May, I did not have any issues regarding this question.	Sep 25, 2012 11:40 AM
7	I went forward for prayer and the leader asked me to accept my situation as it is because I cannot change anything about it.	Sep 24, 2012 2:35 PM
8	I have told them how I feel and even asked for support but have not found any.	Sep 24, 2012 2:27 PM
9	Haven't got to that point yet - if I did want to I would ask.	Sep 24, 2012 8:25 AM
10	If one has never experienced being divorced or single as an adult.. then it is NOT possible to seek advice from them. What can we gain from another's inexperience ?.	Sep 23, 2012 10:33 PM
11	A long time ago and not recently	Sep 23, 2012 4:09 AM
12	My now retired Parish Priest helped me with the divorce and annulment .But no help with finding my husband	Sep 22, 2012 3:12 AM
13	They try to be helpful but it loses some of its effect because the church leaders are always married -a bit like being told sweets are bad for you at a kids party!	Sep 21, 2012 2:06 PM
14	I have never thought of discussing the issue with a Church leader.	Sep 20, 2012 3:22 PM
15	Massively unhelpful. He told me that maybe getting married and having children wasn't going to happen for me and that I should look into adopting as a single person. I was only 30 at the time! It was the worst experience of pastoral care that I have ever experienced.	Sep 19, 2012 2:18 PM
16	Why would I discuss anything with a bloke in a dress who believes anything without question?	Sep 18, 2012 8:08 AM
17	i said to a leader at church i have been with a woman and they said what do you think GOD would say about that	Sep 17, 2012 1:14 PM
18	Apparently I have to accept things the way they are	Sep 16, 2012 5:00 AM

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19	As an adult I feel like I shouldn't be asking for advice or help on singleness - we should be helping the young teenagers not worrying about my relationship status.	Sep 15, 2012 3:42 PM
20	I certainly feel that I could discuss singleness with my church leaders if it ever became a difficult issue for me. I am content with my singleness and my place within my church, however, so it has never become a problem.	Sep 14, 2012 12:17 PM
21	i dated her son,so awkward!! my church leaders are so wonderful I would love to be part of their family, they are so wonderful. Their son less so, haha.	Sep 12, 2012 3:24 PM
22	Not relevant. If I wanted advice I know he/they ,as with everything else, would be very helpful and interested and supportive. I've just not sought their input.	Sep 12, 2012 2:26 AM
23	I am 41 years old so I am happy with my own thoughts and feelings on singleness and I don't need to ask any leader for any advice.	Sep 10, 2012 3:34 PM
24	All the leaders seem to be really busy when I see them on sundays. One of them sometimes smiles at me and asks me how I am but I feel that he's always busy and has a stream of other people waiting to talk to him or to be talked to by him.	Sep 10, 2012 12:19 PM
25	I haven't ever wanted to because church leaders seem to mostly have been married young so I don't think they really get it. I would rather talk to another single or an older person who didn't get married until at least late 20's or 30's	Sep 9, 2012 11:52 AM
26	My cell group leaders always chat to me about that sort of thing, they are also Church elders. It's not deliberately about singleness but they ask how I am and I ask them for prayer and advice on finding a spouse.	Sep 8, 2012 6:32 PM
27	The Pastor will encourage me all the times, and pray about the person God has chosen for me will come now in my life. Been single for sixteen (16) years.	Sep 7, 2012 3:55 PM
28	no, but would be up for it if the opportunity arose	Sep 5, 2012 10:38 AM
29	My pastor is very open and honest and I find him and his wife very easy to talk to on all sorts of issues.	Sep 4, 2012 3:23 PM
30	Their comment was that they were praying for us to find partners.	Sep 4, 2012 2:51 PM
31	I would feel more comfortable talking to my female single curate, than my male married vicar...but then I would feel comfortable talking to his wife, its a female thing rather than a married thing.	Sep 4, 2012 2:30 PM
32	My church leader is my boss...	Sep 4, 2012 7:10 AM
33	I plan to attend the next singles group at church.	Sep 3, 2012 1:59 PM
34	My vicar is single so would be even more embarrassed	Sep 2, 2012 2:59 PM
35	its probably not a priority as I would be in the minority.	Sep 2, 2012 12:04 PM
36	Being single has got some sort of stigma anyway, especially single with children you are made to feel as if you did something wrong. Makes me wonder if they are actually saying 'you should have stayed in the relationship even if it didnt work.	Sep 2, 2012 8:00 AM

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37	Not for a while; I would like to	Sep 1, 2012 3:08 PM
38	They show alot of compassion	Sep 1, 2012 2:09 AM
39	Have never asked. They're only happy because their little corner of the world is rosy. They usually couldn't care less about lonely, unhappy, neglected people sitting in church pews with their hearts breaking!	Aug 31, 2012 8:39 AM
40	My singleness is not an issue!	Aug 30, 2012 2:14 PM
41	Workshops will be arranged for singles who have been previously married.	Aug 30, 2012 11:53 AM
42	Previous Church in SA, it was ignored	Aug 30, 2012 2:26 AM
43	I don't think the aim of the discussion was singleness, yet the issue of vulnerability came up that I raised, and that I felt applied to other women I knew: need of support and how things are sometimes difficult. Also, my personal request to discuss the issue of homosexuality as the cultural liberties effect very much the bounderies that Christian singles sacrifice so much to keep and are not supported or encouraged by the church. Married people are not bothered or concerned by morals and loose societal sexual morals as much I think as single people. There has never been any discussion led by my church on the issue - very complex issue - of homosexuality and the effects on the church.	Aug 29, 2012 11:52 AM
44	Just never comes up.	Aug 29, 2012 8:44 AM
45	I think if I wanted to then I could ask and they would provide the guidance and point the way but it's never been an issue.	Aug 28, 2012 4:42 PM
46	I know that a couple of the younger men have been counseled by a previous minister, but am not aware of any reason why.	Aug 28, 2012 9:51 AM
47	and it was not helpful	Aug 28, 2012 4:03 AM
48	Most church leaders have been married a long time and do not really understand issues facing those in long term singleness	Aug 26, 2012 3:57 PM
49	no never discussed	Aug 26, 2012 11:09 AM
50	Not useful at all.	Aug 26, 2012 3:33 AM
51	Get fobbed off by god has a plan for you.	Aug 26, 2012 1:52 AM
52	Never seen it as much or an issue	Aug 25, 2012 3:27 PM
53	I have strong friendship with my Church leaders but dont feel i could talk about singleness.	Aug 25, 2012 9:22 AM
54	The subject of gay people in the church is discussed adinfinitum but effects probably 1% of people who attend church whereas singleness is explored but is much higher represented. Absolutely ridiculous.	Aug 25, 2012 9:02 AM
55	I have a very close friendship with my vicar and we discuss everything- I have no secrets!	Aug 24, 2012 8:22 AM
56	My Church leader said that he was aware that my husband had left me, that was a year ago, he has never contacted me since, has not approached me	Aug 24, 2012 4:49 AM

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	when I have been at Church, never made eye contact. Leprosy comes to mind.	
57	I know that our minister tackles every single guy on the issue! I talk to the women in the church. The way I feel neglected as a single is more the fact that I am a woman which would make it inappropriate to spend time one on one with the ministers, but the women who are available in the church do not have that level of scriptural knowledge.	Aug 23, 2012 9:46 PM
58	This happened largely by accident	Aug 23, 2012 2:17 PM
59	only in relation to my job when talking with vicarr and/or line manager about work related events. I am obviously more available as I don't have anyone at home.	Aug 23, 2012 1:58 AM
60	I'm a Church leader myself but feel that singleness has many advantages. You can engage in all kinds of activities inside and outside the Church without having to consult anyone else or fit in with their wishes. Not every single person wishes they were married or in a relationship.	Aug 22, 2012 3:05 PM
61	due to being in the armed forces, I move from church to church at quite a rate, therefore feeling comfortable enough to discuss the ins and outs of my singleness happens rarely, if ever.	Aug 22, 2012 7:56 AM
62	I opened up to a priest and broke down	Aug 21, 2012 5:10 AM
63	As a female the sad reality is that there are no women in leadership in my church and I am not sure how appropriate it is to discuss the struggles of singleness with married or single men in leadership.	Aug 20, 2012 11:30 AM
64	I go to HTB and they are trying to make a massive effort.	Aug 19, 2012 10:21 AM
65	Yes, raised it but It caused an awkward silence	Aug 18, 2012 1:03 PM
66	Easy for married people to judge - dont care what they think anymore because they've hurt me in the past and made me feel awful about my relationships	Aug 17, 2012 3:04 PM
67	The issue doesn't arise on the whole, mostly people gel together very well	Aug 17, 2012 5:22 AM
68	only because she was a young females curate who although she was married could sympathise	Aug 15, 2012 1:42 PM
69	None of them are approachable or welcoming so I'd never feel comfortable discussing my personal situation with them. They appear very judgemental about divorced people, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the divorce.	Aug 13, 2012 6:51 PM
70	Its uncomfortable, wont do it again.	Aug 12, 2012 1:37 PM
71	My church leaders are both married men. While they are sensible and approachable in general, I don't want to discuss the issues with a married man.	Aug 12, 2012 10:31 AM
72	Not helpful to be told that there is no need to be lonely as God is there to meet our every need.	Aug 8, 2012 11:01 AM
73	my father is one of the elders.	Aug 7, 2012 8:33 PM

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74	We talk about it very regularly!	Aug 7, 2012 5:33 PM
75	Yes but not anymore, my experience was if you made noise, you were expected to take a lead and set up a ministry about it.	Aug 7, 2012 2:56 PM
76	Our leaders have done a lot on marriage, relationships, sex and singleness - but the latter seems very much geared to younger singles, and not to older ones. There isn't much of a social scene and as soon as any of the younger ones get married they seem elevated to a higher status and more important within the church. Basically they don't know what to do with us! And not sure they want to listen as they don't have the answers! However, there are regular prayers for singles	Aug 6, 2012 2:02 AM
77	At this point, I don't feel like there's anything particularly relevant to be discussed. I've learned to be mostly content just to get on with my life, and see what happens.	Aug 5, 2012 2:56 PM
78	they're all married so they don't care	Aug 5, 2012 1:08 PM
79	I don't feel the need to, as of yet.	Aug 4, 2012 2:54 PM
80	Church is good on relationship advice but not on the issue of singleness - it is very rarely mentioned	Aug 1, 2012 4:04 PM
81	I would be embarrassed, where would I start really?	Jul 31, 2012 9:56 AM
82	Don't feel they have any understanding having been happily married for decades	Jul 31, 2012 4:15 AM
83	Find though my relationship just fissioned out so quickly I give up talking about it.	Jul 30, 2012 4:32 PM
84	Not yet, I pulled away for a while. Strong enough now and re-attending, with the intention to definitely discuss with Leadership.	Jul 30, 2012 1:29 PM
85	Have never wanted to is not true where is the I have not considered that I should broach the subject until now.	Jul 30, 2012 12:52 PM
86	It's not something easy to talk about and actually, I'm a bit afraid of receiving advice that might take me outside my comfort zone. So, haven't so far wanted to discuss either with anyone in the church or outside.	Jul 30, 2012 6:24 AM
87	Have no permanent minister and other leaders are not interested	Jul 29, 2012 8:16 AM
88	No point with no permanent minister/leader and very small congregation	Jul 29, 2012 2:09 AM
89	For a sermon one of them did on singleness	Jul 28, 2012 11:10 AM
90	Church leaders are often well meaning, but fail to realise how demanding life and parenting can be. whilst they cannot promote an unbiblical lifestyle: that is the reality that many live. We do not need any more instructions or rules only unconditional love and understanding.	Jul 27, 2012 6:20 AM
91	Discussion with prayer partner (aged in late 70s!)	Jul 26, 2012 2:10 AM
92	We ran a young adults group and singleness and marriage was a topic brought up and discussed a lot.	Jul 24, 2012 1:18 PM
93	It is actually some of the church mums who have been there that give the	Jul 22, 2012 2:26 AM

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	best advice and offer to pray with you as oppsed to the 'leaders'. Need to get yourself a good spiritual mentor.	
94	I feel that isnt looked on favourably.	Jul 21, 2012 4:20 AM
95	They do not tell me what to do but provide me with discerning advice - usually telling me to sort it out with God!! But not in a dismissive way. They know I need to trust Him more and lean not on man's understanding	Jul 20, 2012 3:15 PM
96	My church leaders have been married for a long time, so do not really know what it's like to be single today, especially as a 40 year old woman working full time with little time or opportunity to meet other single people/ men.	Jul 20, 2012 4:06 AM
97	Why is it such a big thing? I don't find it an issue and wish others didn't! I think its very immature to. I take the view that if we are trusting God in every area of our lives if he has got a partner for us we will meet that partner as God will engineer the circumstances and we won't have to do a thing except seek first His kingdom.	Jul 20, 2012 3:31 AM
98	It doesn't even come onto their radar.	Jul 19, 2012 1:26 PM
99	They tend to throw excuses back at me, or have no concept of where I'm coming from	Jul 19, 2012 5:47 AM
100	can talk about anything to anyone	Jul 18, 2012 2:05 PM
101	None of these answers is correct for me. I have not discussed singleness with one of the church leaders on a one to one basis, but this was not because I did not want to, nor because I didn't feel confident to ask. The real reason I have not discussed it is because I doubt they could help me very much. All the ministers I know are married, so what exactly would they know about being single?	Jul 18, 2012 9:33 AM
102	no	Jul 17, 2012 12:49 PM
103	Church leaders find it difficult to give advice about relationships and they are more concerned about sexual activity	Jul 17, 2012 10:07 AM
104	Members of the church leadership are also my friends	Jul 17, 2012 5:07 AM
105	This is the closest answer, but not exactly, as it's not a matter of being confident or not to ask but simply not having the opportunity.	Jul 16, 2012 5:38 PM
106	Church leaders (even younger ones- under 40) don't show in my experience any interest in addressing the issues of single adults within the community. It is like a taboo subject. I also think they have no experience and therefore very little genuine empathy or care. However, if they are interested in strategically improving the health of the church they should, I believe, take a real interest in this issue. I would therefore very much like to speak with my church leaders about this question, but I am reluctant to because I personally feel they don't care.	Jul 16, 2012 4:56 PM
107	only briefly - church leader is my uncle! but i have wanted to ask for prayer for singleness / relationship but felt embarrassed	Jul 16, 2012 2:23 PM
108	ive had many conversations with many people at random momment that are in my opinion god guided resulting in prayer, support and possitive reinforcement	Jul 16, 2012 11:00 AM

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109	haven't been at the church long enough.	Jul 16, 2012 10:09 AM
110	Have kind of mentioned it at times	Jul 14, 2012 12:24 PM
111	Not an easy thing to talk about. I do have family that I would discuss with however some non-christian family members do not understand.	Jul 14, 2012 4:13 AM
112	A long time ago! I'm still single. They don't seem to know what to suggest to single people in the church.	Jul 13, 2012 1:24 PM
113	They are more interested in the youth and families and the ethnic groups we have	Jul 13, 2012 12:35 PM
114	Yes as part of a conversation	Jul 13, 2012 12:21 PM
115	no	Jul 13, 2012 11:39 AM
116	With a female pastor who is also single	Jul 13, 2012 7:08 AM
117	As my pastor is married he doesn't seem to understand the loneliness some of us feel being single.	Jul 13, 2012 6:01 AM
118	They just try to be groundlessly positive that you might find a partner	Jul 12, 2012 1:32 PM
119	They are aware that singleness is an issue for a handful of people like myself but don't seem to know what to do to support us	Jul 12, 2012 12:06 PM
120	please see my previous comments	Jul 12, 2012 8:58 AM
121	Too focused on teaching about unity & not great at applying theology but love lecturing it	Jul 11, 2012 3:15 PM
122	Discussed, my situation with a deacon and his wife, who understood as much as they were able, the people who really understand are the ones who are in the same situation.	Jul 11, 2012 2:05 PM
123	Listened	Jul 11, 2012 11:14 AM
124	Only one member of my church has made me feel a threat as a single woman to other couples, very hurtful.	Jul 10, 2012 5:58 PM
125	My church leader is very supportive of single people and helping them with relationships.	Jul 10, 2012 1:25 PM
126	I asked my leader to keep a look out for 1 worthy man as he goes off preaching around the country this summer...he said he doesn't get into match making. Whats a girl to do??	Jul 10, 2012 11:33 AM
127	i dont like being stigmatised of my issues	Jul 10, 2012 9:18 AM
128	no not good enough friendship/relationship with leaders, ostracised	Jul 9, 2012 2:39 PM
129	They just don't understand, or don't want to understand that hope deferred makes the heart grow sick. We all have needs even the Apostle Paul recognised this, the leadership often simply ignore the problem and hope that it will go away.	Jul 9, 2012 3:27 AM
130	Yes, but only in passing, on a social visit. There was no real understanding	Jul 9, 2012 3:20 AM

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on the part of either the pastor or assistant pastor (separate occasions), understandably.

131	I asked if I meet a none christian gentelman would they let us get married in are church. I was told they would talk to me of being unevenly yoked has it says in the bible. If the man I wonted to marrie had christian values and I loved him they would marrie us. I was a little shocked has they preach to be evenly yoked all th time.	Jul 8, 2012 2:54 PM
132	When i was ready i talked it all through	Jul 6, 2012 3:53 PM
133	One Elder who was close to me left a few years ago and although the current Pastor is very friendly and warm, I don't sense the desire to 'know all about me'.	Jul 6, 2012 3:25 PM
134	my feeling is that there is a view that singleness and finding someone is something everyone needs to resolve themselves.	Jul 6, 2012 2:31 AM
135	they seemed uncomfortable and said they would 'pray' about it	Jul 6, 2012 12:37 AM
136	Being a single in my view is a state of personal confidence. Sure it is more difficult for older singletons because society as a whole does not provide any suitable source of entertainment for the older singleton can meet others of their status.	Jul 5, 2012 3:42 AM
137	A new curate once preached how great it was that our church had so many couples committed to each other - made me feel great! I once passed comment to the vicar that I found it difficult to join in certain activities (swim, christmas parties etc) because I went to them on my own and that they are so family centred I was told that I shouldn't because we are a family together. I don't think they really understand because it's not a situation they can actully relate to.	Jul 4, 2012 12:04 PM
138	My large church set up a course on relationships to support the 20s and 30s manage. I was at the time in my 40s; I felt overlooked but understood they had to tackle the greatest area of need.	Jul 4, 2012 9:19 AM
139	i feel free to share the issues i face as a single with my prayer partner and in my house group	Jul 3, 2012 3:08 PM
140	Its all good and well for people to give advice on singleness, such as orignally in the new testament it was considered better to be single as then you were free to follow Christ and be a missionary spreading the Good News, however I feel this means little, when coming only from people who are married.	Jul 3, 2012 2:42 PM
141	Both yesses, at different times.	Jul 3, 2012 12:45 PM
142	Both at my request and at their instigation but not always sure they really know how to help. Virtually all leaders in our church are married.	Jul 3, 2012 11:58 AM
143	They are not people who I can relate to so I don't discuss matters with them. They don't appear to have any understanding of this situation.	Jul 3, 2012 10:17 AM
144	I think it as in all relationships that people approach people they know and trust. As amemembr of congregation and a Christian leader, people do come to talk to me about relationship issues which they would not if I was unapproachable.	Jul 3, 2012 10:09 AM

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145	Find that some can be sympathetic, others just recommend that you find your fulfilment in Jesus as a single person, not very helpful really.	Jul 3, 2012 9:04 AM
146	I have had 2 "home visits" from Captain Emma, when I was off after 2 operations, and we talked about all sorts of things, but not my singleness, because it's not an issue for me... I know that of God's plan is for me to have a life partner, that will happen in his time - if He doesn't, that's cool too - I'm in a relationship with God and any man that appears will have to be so too!!!	Jul 3, 2012 8:13 AM
147	My experience of Singles groups in churches is that do not seem to keep going We hear that they are going to start if people are interested, but nothing happens! Not sure why	Jul 3, 2012 4:06 AM
148	whenever I have spoken to a church leader (or wife) they have always been very positive that someone like me was bound to attract a man. This raises my hopes - which are so often dashed.	Jul 3, 2012 3:50 AM
149	it was not to one of my elders. but i was dismissed	Jul 3, 2012 3:24 AM
150	I had a frank discussion with an elderly canon. He absolutely could not understand me as a modern woman and suggested I go into nursing and intimated that I keep quiet about the problems I was facing.	Jul 3, 2012 1:36 AM
151	He was honest to admit that singleness (and the search for a partner), had never been an issue for him.	Jul 2, 2012 11:24 PM
152	one of my previous pastors who had been divorced and then remarried was very helpful and supportive to me when I was widowed 2 years ago and visited me regularly for support. This was unusual - on the whole most churches dont know how to address it and at best would be helping you to cope rather than suggesting that there are any alternatives for the future. A lot of Christians view Christian dating websites or often any relationship developments particularly for divorced people with caution at best and opposition at worst. Whilst they do have grounds to advise caution from my experience their advice is rarely constructive but tends to be of the 'grin and bear it' or rather pray and bear it approach!	Jul 2, 2012 10:58 PM
153	I think it's hard for those who are married and perhaps also have children and lead a busy life to understand the alone-ness of singles.	Jul 2, 2012 5:50 PM
154	The first time I brought it up in a former Church I was told I needed to fix myself up, dress well, go out more etc...I was in a Church of about 300 people, leading youth and ushering for large gospel events!!!! 15 years on, no change	Jul 2, 2012 3:02 PM
155	I have found them to be good listeners who have prayed with and for me, but I felt it was up to me to be meeting other Christian singles.	Jul 2, 2012 2:58 PM
156	the leaders are under skilled and refuse to acknowledge any need to be trained. They believe they are called and equip by God only and not answerable to mankind.	Jul 2, 2012 2:15 PM
157	I was not placed in a housegroup divided into 'young marrieds' 'young families' 'older families' as there was only one other single person we were not placed. When challenging the 'pastor' where should I go - he said 'anywhere you like' without discussing the matter further. When I later resigned my membership (but still staying at the church) I suggested the church consider their approach to singles. Suffice as to say now that I rarely	Jul 2, 2012 2:07 PM

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	go I have never had one call from the elders / pastor	
158	when a priest is a married (25yrs +) senior man I dont see how he can be any authority on singles and romance...	Jul 2, 2012 2:01 PM
159	I've e mailed one of the clergy re singleness. He also read 'A Desire to Belong' at my request.	Jul 2, 2012 1:53 PM
160	answers didn't come from discussion but it helped to talk	Jul 2, 2012 1:43 PM
161	More related to single parent issues, crisis situations would feel ok discussing singleness but would usually take initiative to bring up.	Jul 2, 2012 1:33 PM
162	nothing resulted from it!	Jul 2, 2012 1:22 PM
163	all leaders are married and a lot older, within the church generally there are few peers for me to talk to, i want other singles my own age to talk to or married peers to talk to	Jul 2, 2012 1:08 PM
164	As previously said in leading a singles event at our church with my Vicar	Jul 2, 2012 12:45 PM
165	They were sympathetic, particularly when I said it affected my attendance at church, but couldn't offer any practical advice in dealing with ity.	Jul 2, 2012 12:41 PM
166	This is an issue I have worked with mainly on my own through resources or friends in a similar situation. I have never found it particularly well understood/broached by 'the church' in general. I also feel it would be helpful for the whole congregation to look at the issue as people often don't realise how they could be more helpful in their approach - like inviting someone for lunc, not saying 'I'm sure God has someone lined up for you' etc.	Jul 2, 2012 12:37 PM
167	One of my elders regularly asks me how I am, being genuinely interested. Now that I am seeing someone he has been supportive, and certainly not censorious.	Jul 2, 2012 12:35 PM
168	but nothing has come of it....	Jul 2, 2012 12:29 PM
169	Just seems they hear but don't listen	Jul 2, 2012 12:10 PM
170	I have spoken to my Pastors and expressed my wish to get married when the time is right and I meet someone I feel is right for me. He prayed for me and I know he stands with me in asking God to make it happen.	Jul 2, 2012 12:04 PM
171	Pastoral advice would certainly be there on request, but singleness isn't an issue that I think would be presented to the congregation in a talk	Jul 2, 2012 11:40 AM
172	Tried to set up "social" regular events for anyone to join in (obviously including singles and families) as there must be other lonely people in Baptist Church but was told that wasn't the role of the Church, and had to be done through Small Groups (ie "homegroups")!!!	Jul 2, 2012 11:02 AM
173	It is always good to be able to relate to one of the elders who has gone through similar experience. None of us can know all things.	Jul 2, 2012 10:47 AM
174	Didn't feel supported when tried to start a local singles group in Methodist circuit	Jul 2, 2012 10:38 AM
175	work in progress! I have shared a book 'Desire to belong' and Im awaiting	Jul 1, 2012 2:33 PM

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	feedback and thoughts.	
176	I found a Pastor with whom I could relate to honestly and openly and recieved some good advice even though occasionally still demonstartaing that the church is slow to eveolve of matters of modern day singleness	Jun 30, 2012 2:31 PM
177	But most are married and seem to have the perfect relationship. They do not seem to understand about been single.	Jun 30, 2012 5:08 AM
178	Advice is usually based on condemnation and what is appropriate for a single male/ female Christian to do and not do, e.g. freely talking to the opposite sex, not finding people on the internet, not dating but getting to know someone as a brother in Christ and then marriage.	Jun 30, 2012 4:53 AM
179	this has reminded me that I should talk with one of them!!	Jun 29, 2012 12:24 PM
180	I have been laughed at.	Jun 29, 2012 3:15 AM
181	The situation has not arisen for me to need to speak to my leaders about singleness but I wouldn't hesitate if I needed to discuss the issues.	Jun 28, 2012 2:38 PM
182	What I love is that sermons stick to the Bible and are a message for the whole church, but if I need advice/pastoral care I am able to go to a number of wiser Christians and be very open with them, and because they know me they can tailor the advice to me. This can only happen in a small to medium size church I guess, but the main thing is the members are all upward looking which keeps them outward, not inward looking!!	Jun 28, 2012 9:45 AM
183	My Church leader is interested and open to discuss many things including singleness. However, I am the only single in our small church.	Jun 28, 2012 7:54 AM
184	Older elders wanting to do their best. But we have a pastor who has said to the congregation and I quote "Why would I want to start a singles ministry, I'm happily married. But if you want to start one, go ahead."Where's the encouragement? Can you imagine a single Sunday school teacher saying, I haven't got kids, why should I teach yours?	Jun 27, 2012 5:50 PM
185	My pastor is nosy and bossy with too many opinions. He is also deeply caring, connected to everyone and is only interested in someones heart not their status. He can drive me nuts, but I love him to pieces. He is my beloved spiritual family and I wouldnt change him for the world.	Jun 27, 2012 11:17 AM
186	My vicar thinks that I am a confirmed bachelor! I would like to prove him wrong.	Jun 26, 2012 3:15 PM
187	At my 'membership interview' (I was in a relationship at the time) I was asked by the pastor "as a divorcee, what gives you the idea that you have the right to be in a relationship?" followed by an explanation how pastoral issues often arise... when I did have relationship problems the LAST place I felt I could go to was to the pastor. I felt implicit judgement. I don't like the fact that I'm divorced, took long time to leave my abusive ex-husb and much prayer - all this 12 yrs ago - any judgement should be God's alone, not the church - church should encourage and teach - provide loving environment for Christian growth, also mentorship through fellowship.	Jun 26, 2012 1:25 PM
188	My leader is very lovely and kind and good at listening, but as someone who has been married since 24 he felt pretty useless. But says he will stand with me and cry with me.	Jun 26, 2012 1:01 PM

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189	Not really, it's never really cropped up. I've only been at the church for 18months and they have accepted me the way I am. They have helped me steer clear of a few unwise relationship choices though.	Jun 26, 2012 12:34 PM
190	Yes with my mentor, who was on the church leadership team. Once with the vicar's wife - it is harder to bring up with male vicars, but their wives totally understand!	Jun 26, 2012 12:01 PM
191	I was told divorce was easy ----church get into REAL world take off rose tinted glasses, GET REAL stop playing church this is not the way Jesus would treat us --read their bible and do not JUDGE when you do not know facts	Jun 26, 2012 10:13 AM
192	The issue of not being unequally yoked is a big issue for me. There are significantly more women in the church than men, therefore if we are not to be unequally yoked then single-dom is likely to be for life. It's almost like a punishment for not being a Christian when you were young when you would have met a Christian partner. If we are not to be unequally yoked then we are potentially missing the opportunity of bringing other people to Christ. Only marrying another Christian seems almost incestuous	Jun 26, 2012 3:21 AM
193	The subject has never been raised and I think that most of our church leaders have no idea of what it is like to be single.	Jun 26, 2012 12:56 AM
194	As a bloke with strong sexual desires there is little empathy I feel.	Jun 25, 2012 3:05 PM
195	It was a conversation I started.	Jun 25, 2012 1:24 PM
196	It is good to show you are coping after a bereavement. There are people who will pray with you if you ask. There are allot of single people they would say quite rightly organize something	Jun 25, 2012 9:59 AM
197	i have discoussed singleness - and oneness - and even twoness. i have even discussed threeness and fourness - but we wont go down that road !	Jun 24, 2012 4:12 PM
198	I am in a different stage of life. They married quite young so do not have my experience of singleness so their advice wasn't particularly relevant to me.	Jun 24, 2012 1:33 PM
199	They don't have any answers but are sympathetic	Jun 24, 2012 4:27 AM
200	I've discussed with older friends at Church but not the clergy.	Jun 23, 2012 1:32 PM
201	The answer to 17 has come through general teaching sessions.	Jun 23, 2012 7:37 AM
202	hardly ever felt appropriate tho!	Jun 22, 2012 4:01 PM
203	Yes as I was in leadership in an emerging church and have leaders as friends. Now I work hard out in the community and not so obviously involved in church there is an unspoken question of what happened to her faith. I find they will give me stories of harder situations.	Jun 22, 2012 3:44 PM
204	Its not exactly that I didn't feel confident, just that I haven't known how to raise this.	Jun 22, 2012 3:32 PM
205	Singleness is not an issue at my church, perhaps because therea are so many of us or perhaps none of us are bothered about it.	Jun 22, 2012 1:50 PM
206	My previous minister was very interested in the issue of singleness but had	Jun 22, 2012 8:28 AM

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	previously been unaware of the single christians networking groups	
207	They were patronising and condescending and didn't take on board my valid concern that homegroup leaders were defining themselves through their spouses and/or children when in fact we should be defined as children of God. As the church leader did nothing of use I left this unhelpful homegroup! I've found a new one which is much better so I'm very glad I left.	Jun 22, 2012 7:08 AM
208	it was pretty hopeless as the vicar and his wife had been childhood sweethearts and then married so had little experience of being single themselves	Jun 22, 2012 6:30 AM
209	very patronising and discouraging	Jun 22, 2012 3:36 AM
210	Im on the look out for a woman...what is there to talk about?	Jun 21, 2012 4:13 PM
211	I went to see my previous church pastor about going on the mission field and into ministry. He said 'you do know that if you go on the mission field you probably won't find a husband!' He said that's because there are mostly men on the mission field!!! I wasn't very encouraged but now having been to theological college and hearing about ministries out there. Its true, there are a lot of single women or married couples on the mission field and thats it! Another lady in my current church who is a leaders wife said 'there are not many things that single women can do in ministry'I think this has made it hard for me to sometimes know how to fit into church life in the future. A lot of Churches don't accept women in leadership positions unless they are married.	Jun 21, 2012 3:46 PM
212	It doesn't seem to come up as an issue. We just believe that when the time is right, it will happen.	Jun 21, 2012 2:06 PM
213	My church leader married at 21, so while sympathetic there was little understanding of the difficulties.	Jun 21, 2012 10:36 AM
214	I can and do give balanced advice or examples to my married Pastors	Jun 21, 2012 9:26 AM
215	Im reasonably new to the church so havent really asked about this as yet!	Jun 21, 2012 8:01 AM
216	Have heard so much rubbish in other churches in the past that I don't ask. Prejudice & man's opinions do more damage than good. Actually, This has prompted me- I think I will - I need to know if any of that is there.	Jun 21, 2012 6:27 AM
217	Hardly seemed appropriate	Jun 21, 2012 6:22 AM
218	They probably give advice to teenagers, but nothing to other age groups. Singleness is never acknowledged. No conferences etc. I intend to speak to them about this! :)	Jun 21, 2012 5:56 AM
219	they just give the usual platitudes - "there is something great around the corner"	Jun 21, 2012 5:42 AM
220	felt like labelled a "silly girlie". Soon afterwards however passed to very accepting Godly older lady for friendship and advice.	Jun 21, 2012 4:54 AM
221	Nothing further has been said	Jun 20, 2012 10:56 PM
222	I am one of the leaders at my church! But find my outlook on relationships etc to be constantly surprising to the rest of the team! E.g. The huge (bigger	Jun 20, 2012 3:16 PM

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	than with marrieds probably) importance of friendships!	
223	The pastors wife is great to talk to about this.	Jun 20, 2012 2:45 PM
224	Not finding problems with being single at present. Other issues are more important.	Jun 20, 2012 1:31 PM
225	They weren't very helpful...their answers always began with "well, when i met my wife"or "before i met my husband..."	Jun 20, 2012 1:01 PM
226	I know my ministers disdain for singles...he has mentioned it enough times!	Jun 20, 2012 12:55 PM
227	Very useful discussion, he acknowledged something needed to be done so I am watching this space	Jun 20, 2012 11:42 AM
228	This is based on my current church, and below is an example of what happened when I was single.....	Jun 20, 2012 10:50 AM
229	One minister many years ago when I was younger was helpful and encouraging. But more recently, a minister told me 'plenty more fish in the sea' after a break-up from someone I had hoped to marry. Platitudinous rubbish and not even true in my experience! He also told a whole group of singles that Jesus was single till he died so what right had we to complain? Given some of us were the same age or older than Jesus when he died, and none of us had that level of mission, that seemed a bit cheap to me! To be fair, the minister in question married very young, a school sweetheart or something similar, so probably just literally didn't understand. But he could have tried to listen to those of us who were going through it... He's since left, the new minister may well be much better, but I've not tried talking to her as I no longer attend regularly enough to feel that's my right.	Jun 20, 2012 8:25 AM
230	This was 10 years ago since then there has been to approach from my side or theirs	Jun 20, 2012 8:19 AM
231	My church leaders don't find my singleness a problem, they accept me for who I am as I am. I probably know more about being a single adult than they do. I sometimes find myself helping other single Christians from other churches in a quasi pastoral role. They would rather ask another single Christian than their own church leaders. They would rather have advice from someone who knows instinctively where they're coming from.	Jun 20, 2012 8:17 AM
232	Have asked for prayer from ministry when finding it tough when so many of friends are having babies and that's what I'd desparately like.	Jun 20, 2012 7:45 AM
233	Church leaders often seem to get married quite young and so from their experience find it hard to appreciate the lonliness and other hardships of being single in your 30s and beyond	Jun 20, 2012 6:39 AM
234	They are all married!!!	Jun 20, 2012 4:45 AM
235	they don't seem to care or don't know how to handle the problem. It that case why not just ask us!!!!	Jun 20, 2012 4:39 AM
236	I have given the vicar a book to read but as yet no come back. Spoke to previous vicar (at my request) . As a church we always seem to favour married leaders with children - I have heard that expressed on more than on occasion.	Jun 20, 2012 4:35 AM

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237	But would have enjoyed some expressed sympathy with my situation.	Jun 20, 2012 4:18 AM
238	Poor comprehension of divorce and the implications of it and reasons for it	Jun 20, 2012 3:07 AM
239	Generally my church leaders have quite a good understanding of marriage and singleness and it's not too much of a big deal.	Jun 19, 2012 1:53 PM
240	My main conversations on this matter have been with wonderful female friends who I would never have met were it not for being part of my church family	Jun 19, 2012 1:28 PM
241	My vicar is single. I don't want to be a vicar and I don't want to remain single so I don't see how they can help me; there just aren't any single guys in my church....	Jun 19, 2012 12:44 PM
242	I don't know how they could help to be honest.	Jun 19, 2012 12:39 PM
243	People assume you are ok or that maybe you don't want to get married once you get to a certain age.	Jun 19, 2012 12:29 PM
244	was given the usual scripture about waiting for God's timing but little about how to wait well.	Jun 19, 2012 9:37 AM
245	the minister suggested I should spread the net wider and try foreigne women. Not very helpfull I think!	Jun 17, 2012 3:00 PM
246	They questioned my sexuality ie whether I was gay and that being my reason for being single which was not very sensitive or helpful!	Jun 16, 2012 1:15 PM
247	was asked for my views prior to a preach on singleness	Jun 16, 2012 12:24 PM
248	They are all married so no point	Jun 15, 2012 1:49 PM
249	I've never requested this	Jun 15, 2012 1:12 PM
250	Our pastors wife has chatted with me about it when the subject of marriage and family life has come up	Jun 15, 2012 12:53 PM
251	One sermon preached 5 years ago.	Jun 15, 2012 10:32 AM
252	No. Neither of us have ever asked.	Jun 15, 2012 9:15 AM
253	1 of my leaders is also single so this conversation came about during general discussion.	Jun 15, 2012 8:52 AM
254	have not felt the need to	Jun 15, 2012 3:04 AM
255	Wasnt very helpful. They seem to avoid talking about it to a large degree	Jun 15, 2012 2:26 AM
256	Would have liked to and feel they should be the ones to raise the issue with me.	Jun 15, 2012 2:15 AM
257	The above is n/a to me	Jun 14, 2012 2:41 AM
258	I think the hard thing is trying to accept that God may not have someone for you. In fact I am not succeeding in this at all. The advice is often about submission to God's will I am struggling with this one in my relationship with God	Jun 13, 2012 2:34 PM

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259	I'm a widow and not on my own I've twin boys that are now 18	Jun 13, 2012 3:41 AM
260	Dont feel anyone has the time to truly talk to me about my concerns... everyone is too busy with church activity.	Jun 12, 2012 2:14 PM
261	Singleness advice is very much 'marriage' focused which I know much about but dealing with singleness is different. Would feel conscious of appearing not to trust in God's plan for my future or to be dissatisfied with being single and more able to devote time to my relationship with God.	Jun 12, 2012 1:58 PM
262	he sympathised, but he is single and a leader, I think as a leader he feels more included so he thought it was odd and did not really understand.	Jun 12, 2012 2:45 AM
263	Just in passing at life group	Jun 11, 2012 2:12 PM
264	But it has always been in the context of something else - e.g. work/life balance. Or when I was wanting advice about the prospect of getting married.	Jun 11, 2012 6:07 AM
265	Have yearly meetings with the Elders of the church and they pray regularly for all the congregation. The elders are my friends and I feel free to discuss anything with them.	Jun 10, 2012 2:20 PM
266	They have done it, nevertheless our leaders are very approachable to any subject	Jun 9, 2012 12:56 PM
267	I have just changed churches so cannot comment on this	Jun 9, 2012 11:12 AM
268	The pastor tries to be helpful but it's largely outside his experience	Jun 9, 2012 6:00 AM
269	I have never thought about discussing it. As someone in a leadership role I've probably discussed it with friends, who happen to be church leaders, but not because they are.	Jun 9, 2012 4:54 AM
270	I guess I see my singleness as more of an issue that is particular to me, rather than something to explicitly discuss with church leaders. It is something I am much happier taking about with other single friends, but then I suppose we lack a different perspective on the situation.	Jun 9, 2012 2:34 AM
271	I have no nees to discuss it	Jun 8, 2012 12:56 AM
272	Not that great an outcome...get on with your life kind of philosophy, which is fine, but not when you are aching.	Jun 7, 2012 10:54 PM
273	not sure i need to, i know what it is, and they know there is a lack of single people increasingly as you get older, and disproportionate men to women....shrug shoulders and get on with it.	Jun 7, 2012 3:48 PM
274	My vicar listened and had some wise advice but it doesn't seem to permeate to the church plans and policies.	Jun 7, 2012 1:51 PM
275	discussed it with a minister at HTB who was great tbh. But that was a very forward thinking church, other churches assume you want to get with someone and make you feel inadequate if you are single with no idea where as an individual emotionally anyway.	Jun 7, 2012 12:58 PM
276	they give us godliiy advice taken from the bible nt wishy washy like other churchs tend to be and we do our best to make our marridges wk and only	Jun 7, 2012 12:53 PM

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	marry in the lord and we have a different outlook on life putting god first in lives which alot of other pepole dont and a family who prays together generalliy stay together	
277	Although my minister tried to be comforting, I didnt feel it was much help and didnt get any answers	Jun 7, 2012 11:57 AM
278	Not had the need as have only recently become single after 6 years, however, perhaps when/if I feel I need to I know I will be able to. They are a great church who I feel confident could discuss this or any issue I have without any problems and with good sound Biblical advice. As someone who has experience also of the CofE, I have to say, I may question some CofE churches ability/attitude in this topic.	Jun 7, 2012 6:13 AM
279	This is partly because I am part of the church leadership and am the only woman and the only single person on the staff team so feel that I need to speak up for singles.	Jun 7, 2012 4:01 AM
280	Marriage and children are talked about much more - singleness is rarely if ever spoken about	Jun 6, 2012 4:30 PM
281	Generally you cannot talk about something in which you do not have experience of, & leaders are often married & may have long forgotten what it's like to be single, particularly if you have been single for a long time.	Jun 6, 2012 2:57 PM
282	None, of the above, quite. I could have done, and would like to, but the occasion has never arisen - other things crowd it out.	Jun 6, 2012 2:48 PM
283	Have not felt the need to book an appointment with the leader specifically to discuss it! However we have talked about it as part of general conversation.	Jun 6, 2012 12:27 PM
284	Only in times of crisis! Break up, heart break etc.	Jun 6, 2012 11:49 AM
285	Of very little help at all.	Jun 6, 2012 10:40 AM
286	it got brushed under the carpet a bit :/	Jun 6, 2012 9:29 AM
287	I have done informally, but there is a wide spread lack of understanding. Also the congregation is mainly retired so their generation are all married with children and grandchildren. There are one or two widows but I think i'm the only single person there!	Jun 6, 2012 5:02 AM
288	It was with a single (divorced) female priest and actually as an attempt to help an older single lady who had recently lost her mother (with whom she had lived all her life). I think it was the only time that a church leader reflected on my single status seriously.	Jun 6, 2012 4:36 AM
289	Once, a church leader was very wary when I suggested forming a cross-church singles group. He had been scarred by the experience of his younger singles leaving to form another church. Later, the same church leader came to me to talk about how to support singles, but at the time it wasn't a good time for me to do anything.	Jun 6, 2012 1:46 AM
290	As a teenager spoke alot about it in youth group, as an adult has been no teaching at all.	Jun 5, 2012 11:17 PM
291	Vicar will listen to problems and then nod. That's about the extent of it.	Jun 5, 2012 4:51 PM

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292	I would feel I could do this if needed. I have other close friends at church.	Jun 5, 2012 4:50 PM
293	I didn't have the opportunity yet.	Jun 5, 2012 3:53 PM
294	I have asked the Elder some questions but he can't help. At the end of the day I am on my own.	Jun 5, 2012 3:35 PM
295	Have discussed singleness in the divorce help group but not with my vicar or associate vicar nor Church Wardens.	Jun 5, 2012 3:10 PM
296	I do feel a bit of a fool talking about it.	Jun 5, 2012 3:07 PM
297	Feel everything is family orientated. They want to attract men but the married ones. We need single men of all ages too.	Jun 5, 2012 2:37 PM
298	I go to a large church with a large team of leaders, however they do not present a united front when discussing singleness and the issues specific to it. Smug marrieds is the expression that comes to mind!	Jun 5, 2012 2:36 PM
299	I once had breakfast with the curate and his wife. It cropped up in conversation, but wasn't a big part of what we discussed. I wouldn't specifically approach them again on this subject but if I meet up with them on another occasion I would be happy to talk with them openly on the issue of singleness in the church.	Jun 5, 2012 1:38 PM
300	It is a current topic from time to time and I am privileged to work in the church office part-time. The leaders are supporting me in organising various singles events currently and from time to time ask about my view of things as a single.	Jun 5, 2012 1:35 PM
301	just talked about it informally	Jun 5, 2012 1:31 PM
302	Heard that at a talk by wife's of leaders that we are a real head ache to leaders so won't be approaching leaders again!! I can understand why we are this to them	Jun 5, 2012 1:19 PM
303	It was in the context of explaining that my single status meant that receiving bad news by email when I was on my own and therefore did not have immediate access to emotional support was not very helpful.	Jun 5, 2012 12:57 PM
304	These categories don't really cover the hadn't thought of doing so as a way forward, Different from lack of confidence.	Jun 5, 2012 12:37 PM
305	'Singleness' is never discussed or talked about. It is therefore difficult to raise in a private way something that is never mentioned in public.	Jun 5, 2012 11:45 AM
306	The House group I am in is lead by a married couple but attended by singles or married folk with unsaved partners, I find my leaders to be compassionate and non-judgemental, they understand how missing intimacy can affect a persons other relationships and perceptions. And indeed if I have been involved in a way I should not (according to Paul in New Testament) they are supportive and loving. But from the head leadership/pulpit nothing, its as if it is of no significance, but perhaps guidance is given to the young people in their seperate meetings, and us older ones just have to work it out on our own.	Jun 5, 2012 11:01 AM
307	My vicar was very understanding of my yearning to be married and though he didn't give me any advice I felt he understood.	Jun 5, 2012 10:46 AM

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308	I have talked with friends from church though, both single and married.	Jun 5, 2012 10:25 AM
309	It's not really something I've though a lot about. However, I do think there is a general lack of guidance for single people/people in relationships (unmarried) within our church.	Jun 5, 2012 10:23 AM
310	OTHER :- Have never been asked	Jun 5, 2012 9:59 AM
311	Why are we making being single a such a big issue? It isn't a big issue.	Jun 5, 2012 9:58 AM
312	They just laughed.	Jun 5, 2012 9:54 AM
313	The priest was helpful	Jun 5, 2012 7:42 AM
314	Yes, but more informally just out of normal conversation.	Jun 5, 2012 5:22 AM
315	NO-ONE EVER wants to Talk about it! The ONLY time I heard a talk on it is at a Special Christian singles event which I travelled right across the country for!! In church it's pushed under the carpet after 20 something age! They PRESUME THIS is the Life you CHOOSE !! When often its the thing you are struggling the MOST with! I have only had disgusting chats with a former pastor who told me to press in to More of God!! Not very helpful when you're already doing that -- I Never mentioned it to them again, and it wasn't long before I left that church for its unhelpful ways. To Question 17: They gave NO guidance, and have never TRIED.	Jun 4, 2012 7:49 PM
316	I have been blessed with a marriage in the past, so if god has planned for me to remarry, then he will let it be known to me, hence he directed me to this site in the first place.	Jun 4, 2012 4:15 PM
317	i got told they dont get many people on ther own like i am when in my church.	Jun 4, 2012 12:08 PM
318	For Q17, in the context of Quakers, those who can give advice = the whole congregation.	Jun 4, 2012 10:41 AM
319	I have a great relationship with my leaders-they're friends.	Jun 4, 2012 6:29 AM
320	Again, this has been a varied experience. One vicar has been very lacking in understanding, and only wanted to talk about me trying dating websites, rather than any of the pain or confusion I was feeling about my singleness. In contrast, a couple of college tutors (both ordained priests) have been very understanding, helping me to explore my feelings and willing to discuss the painful aspects of singleness.	Jun 4, 2012 2:14 AM
321	I would like to but I do not feel they would be able to give any help or advice or understand the situation.	Jun 3, 2012 1:05 PM
322	I have found it presumptuous when people have prayed for me to find someone to marry without talking to me about this beforehand!	Jun 3, 2012 10:48 AM
323	In my previous church. They were unhelpful and thought I should be having the conversation with someone else.	Jun 3, 2012 10:27 AM
324	Was told that if I was single and a medic I should become a missionary	Jun 3, 2012 8:21 AM
325	I am the church leader! I have however discussed it with my spiritual director.	Jun 3, 2012 6:30 AM

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326	One to one much more helpful than the general edicts that tend to come from pulpits or church organisations. eg recent statement from England's Evangelical Council says something along the lines that there is no place for sexual activity outside of marriage - the implication of this is that, until the moment when the priest says 'I now declare you man and wife' one is supposed to be totally non-sexual, and in the wink of an eye become totally sexually active. It makes it sound like it is a terrible sin to french kiss a boy/girl-friend!! Get real, people! And bald statements condemning sex outside of marriage make it almost impossible to speak about church-going with non-church (or other faith) friends and colleagues who think it is bonkers not even to live with one's fiance/e before marriage. There needs to be far more nuanced engagement about what pursuit of holiness of life means in such contexts. (And this is without ever touching on the experience of gay single friends - who realise that while people are desperately praying for me to find 'someone special', are equally desperately praying they never will. Ridiculous.) Sex (the act) and sexuality (which is about all of us, adolescent and beyond) need also to be disentangled and addressed with some differentiation. Sexuality, rightly used by everyone, is a wonderful gift from God - we should not be so much afraid of its power, and so in denial about it. This is a viciously reinforcing circle. Where we named it and spoke positively, it would make it far easier to handle sensibly. As Desmond Tutu says, he is an 'equal opportunity flirter' - and it enhances the joy of everyone, and is completely not in the same ball-park as 'all sexual activity outside of marriage is a sin' - he is far wiser in offering us this way to go!	Jun 3, 2012 6:12 AM
327	I know far more about it than they do, but the pastoral worker is an excellent listener and has put me in touch with someone who is more experienced than he is.	Jun 3, 2012 5:08 AM
328	Question 17 is a bit ambiguous. My advice has been helpful but there is not much they can do about it.	Jun 2, 2012 12:03 PM
329	married clergy don't really know how to handle any single ppl	Jun 2, 2012 10:46 AM
330	I have only been going to this church for the last three weeks. The church i went to pervious was a let down in all ways .	Jun 2, 2012 10:18 AM
331	I explain how things appear from time to time in order to help them a, understand me, b, understand how sometimes things are done in a really insensitive way and c, to help them change the way they say things for the future.	Jun 2, 2012 9:30 AM
332	Mainly because I know there are other single women in my church who are doing this and I generally feel well represented by them	Jun 2, 2012 2:19 AM
333	I am unsure as to how it will help. It is a complex issue, one being statistics there are less men than women who are single so many women remain single and don't want to compromise and find a non-christian partner.	Jun 2, 2012 12:38 AM
334	No, but other friend within my housechurch has been of great help.	May 31, 2012 2:18 PM
335	no ones listening	May 31, 2012 1:53 PM
336	In charismatic new church, the advice was fairly standard and predictable. I have not sought advice from the CofE as yet	May 31, 2012 1:34 PM
337	It hasn't come up yet that I have wanted to. i know I could and that I would be listened to	May 31, 2012 10:13 AM

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338	I'm too embarrassed to ask for prayer from anyone at my church about being single.	May 30, 2012 3:52 PM
339	A singles group would be helpful	May 30, 2012 3:34 PM
340	The person was not married and I felt he had no insight into the trauma's that I had been through... he recognized this and passed me on to someone else who made me feel judged because I was dating and divorced. Many Christian leaders have led sheltered lives and it feels like they are not 'real' ... the offer 'nice' and well meaning advice without having real experience of issues.... when this is done without HS and prayerful guidance, relying on human wisdom only, it is not likely to go well. (I'm not suggesting leaders need to go through the same experiences, but need greater empathy, less judgement over issues)	May 30, 2012 1:22 PM
341	Have spoken with my spiritual director rather than my minister. I wouldn't feel comfortable speaking with him (married when in his early 20's) about it.	May 29, 2012 10:52 PM
342	I have asked re singles ministry and asked them to distribute details about events for singles by they have been unhelpful and don't disseminate info	May 29, 2012 1:55 PM
343	One of my church leaders is a single woman	May 29, 2012 12:50 PM
344	It feels as though this is seen as a low grade problem within the church leadership; there are many much more important issues.	May 29, 2012 10:31 AM
345	just in conversation.when you take the initiative,when you give you receive	May 28, 2012 1:38 PM
346	As THE LEADER I am always happy to help and to talk to my members.	May 28, 2012 6:10 AM
347	As part of a wider conversation	May 28, 2012 2:33 AM
348	I have not felt the need. Our Rector was very good at the time of my wife's death. I read a poem (What is Dying?) and spoke of our time together. The Rector told my family he stood beside me to give support. He soon sat down as he realised someone was standing behind me - Christ. He has been with me ever since.	May 26, 2012 1:55 PM
349	I don't know how the leaders cater for singles. I have no desire to discuss my situation with them.	May 26, 2012 8:00 AM
350	I've not asked the priest, as he probably can't spare the time to talk to myself, about what I would call a trivial matter.	May 26, 2012 7:16 AM
351	Yes, it came up naturally in our everyday conversations, as a normal part of life.	May 26, 2012 3:20 AM
352	I have reflected on it occasionally with people outside my own church e.g. my spiritual director.	May 25, 2012 1:19 PM
353	I get met with sympathy but little understanding - it's upsetting & frustrating!	May 25, 2012 10:42 AM
354	there is none in my church	May 25, 2012 10:08 AM
355	No, but if asked I would do so.	May 25, 2012 9:57 AM
356	comments on q17) The 'gift of singleness' is for those who choose celibacy error has been said from the front. The only singleness seminar was about a	May 25, 2012 9:01 AM

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	life of celibacy (though there were helpful general issues for singles) and the next one (that I couldn't make) was by the same guy - a monk. Lots of mentions of 'family groups' up front in church, meaning families, but little about how the church is family. A whole sermon on whether divorce was right (fair enough - there's quite a few divorcees at our church) but the passage spent most of it's time looking at singleness and that wasn't even touched on. comments on 18) I said as an off-hand comment that it was difficult with all the baby talk at my small group, which was met with surprise that I was finding it difficult. Talk about the singleness seminar and that it should have been about single-by-circumstance, rather than single-by-choice met with indifference.	
357	I have good single friends I can talk to about it.	May 25, 2012 7:22 AM
358	Not a major issue for me...	May 25, 2012 7:03 AM
359	Re: Q 17, they give good advice on relationships, but not much on singleness.	May 25, 2012 6:43 AM
360	No	May 25, 2012 4:53 AM
361	said would look into but nothing happened, just side-lined	May 25, 2012 4:42 AM
362	Spoke about this thrice one to one & as yet, nothing has been done about it. The issue is not everyone is very focal as there is no vulnerability or support for the singles to talk about their issues.	May 25, 2012 3:43 AM
363	I haven't in my current church but I did do in my previous congregation at my request. One thing that makes it hard to do this is that all my current leadership is male and married so as a single female it's not the most comfortable thing to do.	May 24, 2012 2:21 PM
364	Married leaders often don't know what to say or how to tackle the whole issue. Not to say all churches ignore the issue.	May 24, 2012 3:27 AM
365	Don't want to sound like I'm feeling sorry for myself by talking too much about it.	May 23, 2012 3:33 PM
366	The minister has moved in his views that you move onto a higher plane when married and appreciates some of the difficulties but some of the leaders' (older men) views are that if you are single it is because you are a) inadequate b) gay, c) too picky or d) asexual	May 22, 2012 12:23 PM
367	Discussion re biblical guidance on marrying a divorcee as most of the men in my age group on CC are divorced.	May 22, 2012 9:13 AM
368	I haven't because I feel at my age it seems a waste of their time to be talking to me about that but am sure they would if I asked them they are always helpful and were very much so in an upset in my life a few years ago.	May 21, 2012 1:55 PM
369	Some of them will try to understand, but most church leaders married very early in life and don't have a clue! Some get angry (as a guy, I should be taking my responsibility more seriously and finding myself a wife - why am I "messaging about"); some are patronising, treating me like a 13 year old; most just glaze over and act like I'm not there trying to talk to them	May 20, 2012 7:01 PM
370	Sadly I feel ashamed of being single so avoid talking about it	May 20, 2012 9:31 AM

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371	They weren't interested in my feelings as a single person. When I left after over 40 years they didn't even ask me why.	May 20, 2012 8:26 AM
372	It is seen as misguided to want to find a partner. Instead I am told to pray for contentment being single.	May 20, 2012 8:19 AM
373	No-one has ever talked to me about it, it took months to pluck up courage, then I received prayer from a pastor but no further action taken when I was permanently there at church - including asking on progress of prayer	May 19, 2012 2:51 PM
374	Yes- because it came up in conversation...all my church leaders have been willing to reflect on singleness- some more helpfully than others!	May 19, 2012 2:19 PM
375	I share my singleness and how I have learned to be single for 6 years with others. My vicar is married and male, he is not the right person to have this conversation with. The people that have helped have been mature single women at church.	May 18, 2012 11:44 PM
376	Very long time since I established a connection with a church leader.	May 18, 2012 8:37 PM
377	They are all married and their comments feel patronising.	May 18, 2012 2:14 PM
378	Yes, in general conversation.	May 18, 2012 8:26 AM
379	My pastor and his wife have both encouraged me and prayed for me. I recently had my heart broken, and my pastor's wife in particular has been supportive.	May 18, 2012 3:02 AM
380	I can talk about anything with my church leaders or members... I also understand that it is not for them to understand my situation but also it s my duty that I have understanding and compassion that they may nit have had a similar experience and I should not be judgmental towards them and pray that they would never go through this painful experience I have gone through with divorce. As a Christian I have bigger responsibility as my experiences are beyond theirs in life and it is up to me to bring the best out in myself and others.	May 18, 2012 2:02 AM
381	I'm answering this particular question about my previous church, which was very much more supportive of singles in their 30s as there was a large group of us. I was close to the church leader and his family - they kind of 'adopted' me while I lived in the town, and we often discussed the difficulties of being single and also relationships that I was in. They had married later in life so could identify with my experiences to some extent.	May 17, 2012 2:52 PM
382	They could have done more to help	May 17, 2012 12:58 PM
383	Often, the attitude to singleness is 'delay is not denial'. Or they talk about the higher purpose of singleness and how it it right for some people. They rarely acknowledge that many single christians would rather not be single nor do they seem to know what to suggest or how to support those who remain unhappy/unaccepting of their single status.	May 17, 2012 7:32 AM
384	We all agree that something needs to be done, but unless we put it on the agenda it won't happen....and we all know how long things take to sort out when they are on a church agenda! Seriously though, things are being discussed and people are more aware, and things are slowly changing.	May 17, 2012 6:54 AM
385	Teaching is limited to 1 Corinthians 7 (Paul's teaching on "the gift of	May 16, 2012 10:01 AM

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	singleness"). There is little or no practical support for christians would who like to meet other christian singles.	
386	I am a little bit confused about how a 'date' is defined or which situations I should try to avoid (and I have got myself into some slightly uncomfortable situations in the past). I do have some close friends in church (not the leaders, though I wouldn't mind asking them too) who are helping me think through these questions.	May 16, 2012 8:16 AM
387	I wrote a letter with suggestions and they ignored it for years.	May 16, 2012 8:09 AM
388	Discussed more at a friendship level with one of my church elders who is also a close friend	May 16, 2012 4:18 AM
389	Discussed with my house group	May 16, 2012 1:14 AM
390	Sort of. I find it a difficult situation to discuss. I have been discussing with a few people about how to support the single people in the church.	May 15, 2012 1:01 PM
391	feel too embarrassed	May 15, 2012 12:54 PM
392	No, it doesn't really ever come up.	May 15, 2012 11:19 AM
393	they don't understand	May 15, 2012 5:01 AM
394	It's finding a church leader who has sufficient recent experience of being single which is the problem. To discuss it with a married Church leader would be a bit like discussing being poor with a city banker.	May 14, 2012 3:56 PM
395	It felt like a waste of time	May 14, 2012 1:09 PM
396	no as the priests are all single and feel they must find it difficult enough without me asking on the subject. Yes now thinking about it I have recently wanted to talk with the priest about where my lifes direction is at this moment in time I am a faith believing christian and love jesus	May 14, 2012 12:42 PM
397	Our probationer rector (part of a collaborative ministry team the rest being congregation members) recently told me that she and her husband are splitting up. They both seem lovely people and so I just feel confused. Previous church ministers have taken a strong line on sticking together.	May 14, 2012 12:35 PM
398	Only a tiny bit and it don't really help	May 14, 2012 9:51 AM
399	Yes I have brought up the subject,but that was it-there was no real support or advice-	May 14, 2012 9:12 AM
400	It's not a big enough issue for me to discuss it - though we've talked about it a bit in general terms in relation to how we do women's ministry.	May 14, 2012 6:57 AM
401	As an emerging church we mutually discuss life issues, such as singleness, as and when people request, and in a context where they feel comfortable.	May 14, 2012 3:44 AM
402	Disastrous. He simply didn't understand. I knew that the church individually and corporately didn't get it at that point, and left for 3 years. But I missed God and came back, though not to the same parish.	May 14, 2012 2:22 AM
403	They seem reluctant to venture into it.	May 13, 2012 3:01 PM

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404	have discussed it with prayerteam, pastoral team and others but they didn't show much understanding.	May 13, 2012 5:21 AM
405	I never felt comfortable to discuss it. Just thought the answer would be seek God first, pray about it, which is great and the right advice, but not always easy to do. I think people who have been married since they were young, which most Church leaders are, find it hard to give singles advice.	May 13, 2012 3:32 AM
406	I wouldnt feel I could be as honest and open as I would need to be	May 12, 2012 3:46 PM
407	you have not given the option in question 17 for not relevant (haven't asked for advice)	May 12, 2012 11:27 AM
408	unless you count a difficult conversation with my District Chair when my husband left.....	May 12, 2012 9:04 AM
409	Just never have - not that I didn't want to. I don't think they would know what to say.	May 12, 2012 7:39 AM
410	no medium to, when it is not really a focus!	May 12, 2012 5:24 AM
411	My church is so big that it feels like it is not an important enough issue to raise with our main leaders.	May 11, 2012 1:59 PM
412	I have been very open with one of the leaders and we are mutually accountable (he is married) regarding issues of singleness and relationships.	May 11, 2012 1:44 PM
413	I haven't felt the need to yet. I have been divorced 16 months.	May 11, 2012 1:30 PM
414	My minister was a single man (widower). His predecessor was a single woman (never married). There are lots of single people in church leadership. They tend not to give any useful advice on relationships - whether to singles or marrieds.	May 11, 2012 9:17 AM
415	Yes. Some are wise, some think they're clever. The two are not the same. However, the wise ones are helpful. Being too directing might end up being too overbearing. I think the balance was correct.	May 10, 2012 2:21 PM
416	Very difficult to have a one-on-one conversation with a church leader (all of whom are male) when I am a single female	May 10, 2012 12:26 PM
417	Yes to both situations - somethimes me and sometimes they initiate the conversations	May 10, 2012 11:37 AM
418	I'm not sure what it would achieve, rather than a feeling that my leaders wouldn't be open to it.	May 10, 2012 10:42 AM
419	While I believe genuine efforts were made to try to understand, it was generally dealt with in a patronising manner which left me feeling very undervalued.	May 10, 2012 7:07 AM
420	Not a church leader but a more mature Christian lady, it was very helpful	May 9, 2012 2:38 PM
421	No none has ever mentioned singleness in my church so I don't feel I should mention it to my church leaders.	May 9, 2012 2:17 PM
422	I was one of the elected deacons, so count as an elder. Because of my	May 9, 2012 2:01 PM

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	profession [Psychiatrist] I am the one who others tend to turn to for advice about single and marital matters - but I can also confide in some people in my own troubles. My friends in the church and outside are very supportive of my internet dating adventure!	
423	most of my Church leaders are male and I feel it would be weird and inappropriate. Also many of them have been married for so long and at a young age and never had an extended period of singleness to understand the real issues and struggles faced by single people in the church.	May 9, 2012 1:36 PM
424	I go to a very big church and I could imagine sitting in a one to one discussing this.	May 9, 2012 1:02 PM
425	One of the ministers offered to talk through bereavement with me (My husband committed suicide) but I'm not confident he would fully understand	May 9, 2012 11:08 AM
426	They recognise and are happy to discuss singleness	May 9, 2012 7:23 AM
427	I have always felt somewhat reluctant to share my loneliness with others. Nevertheless I continue to lead a fulfilled single life.	May 9, 2012 6:38 AM
428	It was something talked about briefly with one of the elders, who was sympathetic, having a daughter who had been in a similar situation.	May 9, 2012 3:44 AM
429	I haven't had such a discussion but would like to see more of a general discussion/profile in church	May 9, 2012 3:10 AM
430	Came up as part of counselling sessions	May 8, 2012 2:26 PM
431	No point the church is fine and I already know the principles in the Bible on this subject. The entire Bible, from start to finish, is based on marriage.	May 8, 2012 12:20 PM
432	they would not be in the slightest interested	May 8, 2012 12:12 PM
433	years ago, a minister once asked " how do you feel about being single? "	May 8, 2012 9:24 AM
434	Part of counselling after death of God daughter when I explained why I no longer attended morning (Family worship)	May 8, 2012 6:53 AM
435	Not supported	May 8, 2012 6:04 AM
436	I know I can talk to my pastors wife and friends at any time should I want to.	May 8, 2012 2:30 AM
437	In other churches, I've found this to be an embarrassing exercise, which was not followed up by the leadership team more or less at all. In my current church, I haven't had or instigated these discussions (been a member for about a year).	May 8, 2012 1:23 AM
438	Any comments I make about singleness are met with silence	May 7, 2012 3:17 PM
439	I was fully supported during my marriage and divorce	May 7, 2012 3:16 PM
440	I have discussed it with other single women in the church. I would only be comfortable discussing it with someone I was close to.	May 7, 2012 2:36 PM
441	No not something that i really wanted to discuss but maybe i should	May 7, 2012 1:21 PM
442	If your church leaders completely ignore singleness and are very family-	May 7, 2012 1:10 PM

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	focused it's very hard to raise this issue with them.	
443	As a widow of 17 years - I am still only 46, I asked for prayers for my next husbands health and well being	May 7, 2012 12:56 PM
444	Not enough options in Q19 or Q20. Q19 Leaders give good teaching on relationships but often are out of touch with the experience of being a single Christian female so application is lacking. Also, relational side of church is poor. For those reasons, Q20 means I sadly - perhaps unfairly - don't expect much of any value from 1 to 1 meeting on the topic.	May 7, 2012 12:39 PM
445	I have never spoken to church leaders on singleness. They are all married and I would find it hard. I have had counselling re a bad relationship which was undertaken lovingly and in a non "finger wagging" way and as a result I finished a very unhelpful very long term relationship three years ago.	May 7, 2012 11:09 AM
446	I get the impression they don't want to pry. I have heard what they said to my friend. It wasn't too helpful!	May 7, 2012 11:05 AM
447	I am on staff and it's a work issue - bit different perhaps.	May 7, 2012 10:43 AM
448	Kind of a taboo subject!	May 7, 2012 9:45 AM
449	Haven't done since I was at the church that was a bad experience for me, in which I was told that I couldn't be a true Christian until I was in a godly relationship.	May 7, 2012 5:01 AM
450	Informally	May 7, 2012 2:51 AM
451	I have started at my current church in the last year after moving house. I have not had these conversations with the vicar but in the previous baptist church I attended I was able to have open discussion with the minister.	May 7, 2012 2:15 AM
452	We live in the real world, your pastor cannot be all things to all people. They may not have the answers all the time, but an ear to listen is always good	May 7, 2012 12:42 AM
453	I have told them I am looking for a wife.	May 6, 2012 3:29 PM
454	I have a discipleship relationship with one of the pastors and we have regularly, although not recently, discussed my relationships in the past and any issues I am having.	May 6, 2012 1:58 PM
455	It wasn't a big deal - not a major occasion or an in-depth discussion. It doesn't need to be.	May 6, 2012 1:35 PM
456	As the church is a family orientated, I don't think it would be appropriate or relevant to talk to the leadership about this subject as they are all married.	May 6, 2012 1:29 PM
457	I am in an one to one.	May 6, 2012 1:13 PM
458	On the very few occasions I have, I have met with 'what do you expect me to do about it?' - I don't expect them to 'do' anything about me being single except perhaps think a little more about how singles within the church could be more included - particularly on a fellowship and social level. For instance - one of my local churches - the one I feel most at home in, recently advertised an 'over 50's group' - takes place on a Wednesday from 2-4 - most of us are at work!! Vicar upset that only the over 65 widows came!	May 6, 2012 12:05 PM

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459	Yes I have discussed it with a pastoral worker but it wasn't initially a discussion about singleness, but the topic came up. It's nice to be recognised as having needs, or just the need to talk to someone in the church sometimes as I feel unless you're getting married or having a child there's not an occasion when a church leader would need to have a more in depth talk to you.	May 6, 2012 9:54 AM
460	I was told my feelings of isolation were nonsense!	May 6, 2012 9:04 AM
461	Asked to run a seminar on it and was allowed	May 6, 2012 8:30 AM
462	But in truth, you get the message back that it is God's will for you, for now, which is helpful, especially when you know God is preparing you to meet someone special in you heart and soul. The outreach in my church as come from friends seeing the need to help me, not by the church leaders.	May 6, 2012 8:25 AM
463	i am currently exploring ways in which my church could enhance single people. I have arranged to meeting my minister shortly. I have linked in with four churches who have recognised that single people are often isolated in churches and need a social networking group. I am awiaitng to hear further details about project one.	May 6, 2012 3:47 AM
464	it showed almost no understanding of what it is to be either single or a single parent. My suggestions were ignored.	May 6, 2012 3:45 AM
465	I can't think why I'd ever do this.	May 6, 2012 1:47 AM
466	They acknowledge it's an issue, but don't have any real solutions.	May 5, 2012 4:40 PM
467	This question simply illustrates how singledom is an untouched subject in the Church - this whole questionnaire is bringing home to me how bad things were at the Church I went to tho I left for other reasons. Currently I visit a Catholic place of worship where, interestingly, the preponderance of males worshiping God gives me great comfort that there are good me and I feel safe	May 5, 2012 3:36 PM
468	The answers to my last 2 questions are based on the church I had been going to until last year - it wasn't an issue for me really because I was so busy and very happy.	May 5, 2012 3:12 PM
469	I don't feel confident to ask; as I am putting my hope and trust in God for help me.	May 5, 2012 1:03 PM
470	Some years ago in a different church.	May 5, 2012 12:23 PM
471	yes but as a result of a discussion on something else.	May 5, 2012 11:13 AM
472	Had brief relationship with someone who was seperated and felt unsure as he was not divorced if that was right as he was still someone else's husband.	May 5, 2012 9:55 AM
473	Wanted to set up a singles network, my minister saw the need and was supportive but we did not have a discussion about my needs or how i felt about church. I would not go to my pastor, not convinced he would really be able to empathise.	May 5, 2012 9:04 AM
474	Church leader's wife rather than church leader	May 5, 2012 6:19 AM
475	We did have a home group meeting on it once, and really the gist was that	May 5, 2012 5:53 AM

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	you are only married for a season anyway, that marriage is hard, and that single people can reach out to others and do a lot for the church. That you need to recognise the positives in the season you are in now. That singles need to speak out if they are lonely... but also that married couples felt that they should support other marrieds in their walk with God and therefore that is why they focussed more on them. The positive message was that people believed singles had a purpose and that being married wasn't 'better' than being single. The negative undertone was that people didnt really feel that they were wanting to initiate inclusion of singles.	
476	Our leaders appear to let me to "get on with". Pastor once alluded to me as a "lonely person". I have no desire whatsoever to be such!	May 5, 2012 2:10 AM
477	I brought it up when answering a question from them about why I was struggling so much at the moment.	May 5, 2012 1:30 AM
478	Had a single female minister at one point and she took the initiative to pull christian single women together. Nothing for the men though	May 4, 2012 11:57 PM
479	I would feel selfish and self-pitying to talk to a Church leader about how desperate I feel being single, how sad I am not to have children and the fear that I am running out of time. I am afraid that the Church would frown upon such self-indulgent thoughts.	May 4, 2012 4:44 PM
480	I gave one a book on it, but it has failed to be read or taken on board	May 4, 2012 4:28 PM
481	I wouldn't expect them to give me advice on singleness any more than on health issues or good driving technique! I guess I might tell them what I think it would be useful to do in the church to help single people... but leaders normally prefer to tell you rather than be told :o)	May 4, 2012 4:22 PM
482	Also at their instigation.	May 4, 2012 3:48 PM
483	Most church leaders in my experience don't seem to have a clue. The only one I know of who seems to understand is Matthew Ashimolowo.	May 4, 2012 2:28 PM
484	I asked why they do not encourage single people to find a spouse: they said that it is not appropriate to say this from the front, but they do encourage it on an individual basis.	May 4, 2012 2:11 PM
485	Yes at their instigation and my request it comes up occasionally in conversation.	May 4, 2012 1:26 PM
486	I'm a small group leader and have regular meetings with my ministry team leader - she's only a bit older than me, these things come up!	May 4, 2012 12:54 PM
487	Opening a lot of wounds.	May 4, 2012 12:49 PM
488	No	May 4, 2012 12:08 PM
489	I'm sure they would be willing to discuss it if I broached the issue.	May 4, 2012 12:01 PM
490	I have shared about my difficulties with with house group leaders in finding a future husband	May 4, 2012 11:39 AM
491	no, I never discussed my status at church, but I said to them, that I will love to find a parther....	May 4, 2012 11:05 AM

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492	it's difficult to discuss singleness when the church leaders are all married, also they say it is God's plan - which feels very condescending!	May 4, 2012 8:33 AM
493	At a recent meeting of young people I explained why I am single	May 4, 2012 7:47 AM
494	All they have to do is to provide the opportunity for people to meet. In big cities like London, after you leave the church, you are never going to meet that person again, so it is useful to have a place where one can buy a tea and some biscuits and have some conversation with people.	May 4, 2012 7:09 AM
495	There are never any easy answers. Some are helpful and understanding (but can't solve the problem), others recommend prayer, others say that perhaps God has other plans.	May 4, 2012 4:50 AM
496	My small group leader. She has been amazing.	May 4, 2012 3:51 AM
497	I have discussed the break down of a relationship.	May 4, 2012 2:42 AM
498	I have only been attending this church since January 2012 The minister is often away I would like to have a talk with him about my singleness & related issues	May 4, 2012 2:11 AM
499	Advice tends to relate to young singles.	May 4, 2012 1:00 AM
500	All the church leaders are married and I don't always feel that, being young, I am taken seriously when I talk about singleness	May 3, 2012 11:39 PM
501	I haven't so much discussed singleness but have rather discussed the surrounding issues. Of course they have feigned empathy but in reality were unable to be empathetic.	May 3, 2012 5:56 PM
502	Very difficult as most were married by my age. Its often hard to find someone who can specifically relate - however maybe thats not the point as all of our walks are different.	May 3, 2012 5:27 PM
503	WISH THERE WERE MORE PLACES TO MEET UP	May 3, 2012 4:53 PM
504	The minister didn't give much useful advice. Most couple at my Church married in their twenties and so don't have much of an idea about being single.	May 3, 2012 3:10 PM
505	I would probably approach my homegroup leaders if I did wish to discuss singleness.	May 3, 2012 2:47 PM
506	I have never felt my "singleness" as being a particular attribute that requires discussion with church leaders.	May 3, 2012 2:35 PM
507	There is a stigma about divorce and comments sometimes slip which have deterred me from saying much, as I would be having to 'defend' myself from people who have no idea what it is like to be in an extremely bad relationship.	May 3, 2012 1:17 PM
508	My church approach singleness for younger members but doesn't really discuss with older members. There is an assumption that we all support each other and there are certain interests in the church suitable for older single women. Divorced people are on the edge of church community.	May 3, 2012 1:12 PM
509	I feel more confident now as I have developed my relationships with my	May 3, 2012 12:39 PM

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	church leaders	
510	I have a very good relationship with our pastor and his wife and can be really honest with them.	May 3, 2012 12:36 PM
511	Most church leaders are married, I would rather have advice on singleness from other singles.	May 3, 2012 12:20 PM
512	If they are not single and married young, then they struggle to relate to me. I am 47 and never married. Few church leaders I have come across are in that situation.	May 3, 2012 12:12 PM
513	Yes. I got told 'some people are mothers, some people are teachers, some people are Pastors and some people just work long hours to provide for the Church'. Guess which one he had me labelled as?!	May 3, 2012 11:27 AM
514	It's hard to initiate a discussion about it without it sounding like it is an 'issue' for you, and I feel as then I would attract people's 'pity' which I would hate!	May 3, 2012 11:06 AM
515	I have been able to discuss with some in pastoral ministry, however the general trend of discussion is that marriage is always best, if you have a friendship why not progress into a relationship, without hearing the difficulties.	May 3, 2012 10:37 AM
516	They just don't empathise, or perhaps they feel uncomfortable, so conversation stays somewhat shallow and cliché.	May 3, 2012 10:10 AM
517	Not got round to it	May 3, 2012 9:58 AM
518	It's difficult for them to know what they can do about it because there really isn't anything they CAN do	May 3, 2012 9:55 AM
519	discussed by mutual agreement	May 3, 2012 9:07 AM
520	In a previous church I received a lot of 'guidance', not all solicited, about my single state. It pretty much added up to 'Don't get involved with non-Christians', 'Don't tempt married men' and 'God will give you strength to deal with any difficulties you might face.'	May 3, 2012 9:06 AM
521	It's a non issue as they are very supportive of single people	May 3, 2012 8:29 AM
522	How would any of them understand what it's like to be single into your 40s, they are all married either with children or with children in the way...	May 3, 2012 7:58 AM
523	Don't think they care	May 3, 2012 7:42 AM
524	Our assistant pastor ran a twenties' group weekend away on the subject	May 3, 2012 7:28 AM
525	One was extremely unhelpful and accused me of "coming on" to women who purportedly had complained (something I find hard to believe). His colleague was much more helpful.	May 3, 2012 7:00 AM
526	With a mentor, never mentioned particularly in wider church context.	May 3, 2012 6:24 AM
527	They admitted there wasn't really anything for single people and said they would be happy for me to visit other churches to meet other singles - Not that they were advocating I leave their church but to 'visit' other churches to see if there were more singles there where the focus to meet their needs was part	May 3, 2012 5:39 AM

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	of the church's ethos around bringing people together. At my current church I haven't spoken to the pastors (yet) as i'm fairly new and the church is going thru an uncertain period re leadership	
528	Actively discouraged "not an issue, your problem".	May 3, 2012 4:54 AM
529	In Deutronomy it says about finding the word and laying it up. I'm standing on proverbs 31 for a wife but there is not much to show me how to be that womans man	May 3, 2012 4:43 AM
530	My curate is a single parent of my age but the vicar is married with two grown up children and 4 grandchildren.!!	May 3, 2012 3:22 AM
531	n/A	May 3, 2012 3:20 AM
532	No but have really felt the need to do so recently. It's a difficult subject to bring up.	May 3, 2012 2:13 AM
533	no	May 3, 2012 2:10 AM
534	Although I have said no never wanted to, its not something I have thought to ask about. I'm single, but never have i been made to feel any different from anyone else, why should I? When at church I don't think about being single, I'm simply part of the family that goes there.	May 2, 2012 11:24 PM
535	No, there's nobody I really feel would be able to help me.	May 2, 2012 9:32 PM
536	Well i was told that if i had missed that special window then it would be difficult...On another occasion i was told if the hat fits wear it...On another i was told to turn my passion into sublimation and service	May 2, 2012 7:07 PM
537	They said that God has it under control	May 2, 2012 5:47 PM
538	As all our leaders are married sadly or rather thank heavens they dont understand what it is to be a single parent, but are so kind and supportive. Just wish they understood how it feels to be someones mum and dad. and have no support at home. I think they do the best they can without having experienced it.	May 2, 2012 5:37 PM
539	I would love to discuss matters of singleness: however, very few people in the very many churches with which I am familiar are well qualified in counselling of any type. I am a trained professional counselor, and have studied both Christian and Secular approaches. James Dobson in Focus on the Family is an example of counselling ministry with which all church denominations should be equipped.	May 2, 2012 4:49 PM
540	I did in a previous church	May 2, 2012 4:04 PM
541	no comments	May 2, 2012 3:37 PM
542	I have had some informal discussion with some of the leadership team at my church, but would like to get further clarification on some issues from the pastor, especially if I enter into a new relationship and consider re-marriage.	May 2, 2012 3:31 PM
543	Informally in general chat	May 2, 2012 3:30 PM
544	Just getting used to singleness.	May 2, 2012 3:19 PM

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545	Felt very lonely	May 2, 2012 3:08 PM
546	Haven't felt the need but think would have been good if someone had started the conversation.	May 2, 2012 3:06 PM
547	I think there is a need for some good teaching on the issue I suppose I haven't liked to whinge too much but I wouldn't say I don't have the confidence to ask hence my choice of response above	May 2, 2012 3:05 PM
548	Singleness was a topic in one Men's Group session	May 2, 2012 2:52 PM
549	tend to discuss with Christian friends however I would say most are oblivious to the issues of singleness if they are within a marriage	May 2, 2012 2:45 PM
550	Sometimes it is difficult to talk about - not always remembered that we are part of the community and no real acknowledgement of the loneliness of being single	May 2, 2012 2:41 PM
551	Its fine if you are single and in your twenties or even thirties, but after that you are not recognised as a person who might feel very lonely at times and the whole emphasis is on families with the references being to 'you and your household'	May 2, 2012 2:38 PM
552	I am good friends with the pastor's wife, and issues of singleness come up from time to time as I do some counselling within the church. We do not agree fully, but she has a fairly open mind, but I feel that sometimes there is lack of real understanding - both on her part and some others on the leadership team. The chairman of the church is remarried, and in conversation with him his wife who was a single mother for a while, I have found them to be more realistic and understanding.	May 2, 2012 2:36 PM
553	In the one year that I have been attending this church, I have never felt the need to speak to the leaders about my singleness as I am relatively happy with it. Yes, I would like to marry, but only when I'm ready for it, and I believe God is in control of it.	May 2, 2012 2:36 PM
554	I've never really thought about it, to be honest. It isn't much of a problem for me. I would like to suggest doing some sort of course/sermon series/etc. for singles, though.	May 2, 2012 2:35 PM
555	They were uncomfortable, listened, but took NO action. Pretend they want change and agree, but never do anything about it.	May 2, 2012 2:34 PM
556	The advice comes from the pulpit in sermons, and from the bible. It is very scripture based, but the clergy provide real life examples to help us connect with scripture in a culturally relevant way. There is a real depth of understanding of issues that single people might face, and I am amazed at how well this is handled by our clergy. I often feel like the clergy is speaking to me personally about an issue when they are addressing the whole church, and I have understood from others that they have felt like this too - we are very blessed.	May 2, 2012 2:30 PM
557	Finally had specific teaching the other week but feel it is important for people to know that we can talk about the issues involved	May 2, 2012 2:21 PM
558	No but probably should. They are not mind readers and as all the leaders are married, probably can't fully appreciate the issues and struggles and the loneliness.	May 2, 2012 2:18 PM

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559	i didn,t feel that the was anyone in leadership i could speak to as they r all married men	May 2, 2012 2:10 PM
560	It is woeful how this is not talked about. I simply don't know why it's the case. Shouldn't teaching in the church to some extent support the needs of the congregation or at least acknowledge where they're at?	May 2, 2012 1:59 PM
561	I m a leader, so am aware of the needs of other singles, so have heart to hearts sometimes... the main thing is that we care and understand and value them.	May 2, 2012 1:28 PM
562	The subject has never really come up.	May 2, 2012 1:08 PM
563	He teaches about singleness to the whole church	May 2, 2012 1:01 PM
564	I am not a very confident person anyway, so don't go out of my way to say anything.	May 2, 2012 12:58 PM
565	There was a talk on sex at church which I said I found quite difficult. Spoke to leader about that and he said we need to do something for singles... 6 months later he has not followed up on suggestion.	May 2, 2012 12:53 PM
566	I'm not really sure what I'd ask them. All the church leaders are married though so I don't feel as though they'd understand my situation	May 2, 2012 12:49 PM
567	I dont think they understand what it is like to come home to an empty house, spend Easter alone- Christmas is covered.	May 2, 2012 12:48 PM
568	I think that if I were to approach my church leader about this issue I would just get a standard response about 'praying for me' rather than a real understanding or empathy for what I was going through	May 2, 2012 12:46 PM
569	I have never thought about asking anybody about this.I think I would do well to make more of an effort in finding a partner.	May 2, 2012 12:35 PM
570	The only such conversation was after my girlfriend had broken off our relationship because of an aspect of my character with which she couldn't cope. The vicar gave me better advice on this than anyone else I spoke to, but singleness as such was only a minor part of it.	May 2, 2012 12:27 PM
571	Re Q17 - I have never felt the need to talk to anyone about married life (before my wife passed away) or being single (since my wife passed away) so would have answered 'Do not know' but that option was not offered.	May 2, 2012 12:27 PM
572	I asked them to pray with me about it and they did. No change though.	May 2, 2012 12:23 PM
573	It was after it was suggested I bring my cat to a Trustees 'spouses' evening... An email was written followed by my resignation	May 2, 2012 12:16 PM
574	Only informally and theoretical, rather than with reference to my personal experience.	May 2, 2012 12:13 PM
575	Probably too old now.	May 2, 2012 12:12 PM
576	My church leader clearly doesn't understand how it feels and couldn't see things from my point of view	May 2, 2012 12:11 PM
577	no	May 2, 2012 12:09 PM

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578	My Church leaders are fantastic but all male so as a single female would not necessarily feel comfortable discussing relationship issues with them.	May 2, 2012 12:08 PM
579	Never been questioned	May 2, 2012 11:53 AM
580	I think singleness changes shape and goes through different stages as you get older. Being single at 24 was brilliant. Being single at 30 throws up many more questions and opportunities and decisions about how to live life and deal with the expectations of secular and spiritual culture as well as family and friends and your own assumptions of where you'd be relationally. My church seems to forget that singleness is an option or that we might need support practically. No idea how I'm meant to do this. No idea how to do dating well. So many many things the WHOLE church needs to consider but no one's talking about it.	May 2, 2012 11:51 AM
581	Informally with the vicar; and openly with homegroup leader. But not heard it talked about from the front in a service or anything.	May 2, 2012 11:43 AM
582	Don't believe they would have anything useful to say besides trite or glib truisms.	May 2, 2012 11:35 AM
583	All my ministers are very much happy married couples and dont really understand the stress of having had a violent marriage and a divorce	May 2, 2012 11:35 AM
584	Actually - probably more a case of not being the right time to ask. Now I would, though. It has never come from their instigation, though.	May 2, 2012 11:28 AM
585	I've been told my biological clock is ticking away by one pastor. In a church meeting where I was youth worker one of the elders prayed I'd be made complete with a husband- this was then followed by months of comments from other elders and resulted in me having to request through my line manager that they stop. Interestingly not one person who has ever made these kinds of comments has ever tried to introduce me to guys, they prefer to just comment!	May 2, 2012 11:24 AM
586	With a previous minister. He was helpful to start with but quickly lost interest	May 2, 2012 11:19 AM
587	No I have never really thought about it , daft really.	May 2, 2012 11:08 AM
588	Who on earth would ask *them*???	May 2, 2012 11:07 AM
589	it's difficult for them, because none of them know what it is like to reach their teens to mid-20's and not be married, yet alone reach my age. so probably cannot relate to the problems	May 2, 2012 10:57 AM
590	I would say No because it didn't occur to me, it's more widely discussed in groups of friends than in One to One conversations, but I would be happy to talk about it with any elder and we have a new elder who is in charge of singleness in our church.	May 2, 2012 10:56 AM
591	It generally comes in up in conversations rather than a planned discussion.	May 2, 2012 10:47 AM
592	Now that I am older I feel it is irrelevant, but wanted to discuss when younger. However never felt bold enough to ask any without coming across as a frazzled spinster.	May 2, 2012 10:36 AM
593	not yet but I intend to	May 2, 2012 10:32 AM

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594	None of the options above fit. It may have come up in conversation but that's it. There was a time when I wanted to raise it but never got round to it.	May 2, 2012 10:27 AM
595	Generally the situation does not come up. That is partly because the Church leader doesn't feel comfortable about it, and partly because I don't feel comfortable talking about it! It is easier sharing with other single people.	May 2, 2012 10:25 AM
596	Unhelpful to hear that the greatest sadness about being childless is reserved for those who are having fertility issues - I will never have children and would not consider IVF and it seemed I was told this should be less painful as there was a hope (before I got too old obviously) that I might still have children	May 2, 2012 10:19 AM
597	It's not a particular issue at the moment	May 2, 2012 10:13 AM
598	The discussion ended buy them saying God knows when its right. its been 7 years now lol	May 2, 2012 10:01 AM
599	But only very briefly, not in great depth.	May 2, 2012 9:57 AM
600	I remember a sermon in which the Minister advised, "If you're not married, get married!". Not exactly practical. I'd love to, but putting this together with the other advice given I'm supposed to leave the prerogative with the men. So it's a bit hopeless.	May 2, 2012 9:36 AM
601	I have spoken to other people at church about it.	May 2, 2012 9:30 AM
602	a long time ago when i was bringing my son up on my own.	May 2, 2012 9:26 AM
603	I have lost two husbands to cancer and just being there they understood my devistation and oneness.	May 2, 2012 9:17 AM
604	They were very helpful to me when my husband left me, and again when he died, but I've never felt the need to discuss singleness as such with them.	May 2, 2012 9:14 AM
605	Spoke to my curate once when it came up in general conversation, but cannot talk to my vicar about anything, he is so far removed from real life, he hasn't got a clue	May 2, 2012 8:53 AM
606	Singleness is usually ignored. The family is the default position.	May 2, 2012 8:44 AM
607	I have a married female friend who is not a church leader, but is involved in the church, and we are able to talk about singleness.	May 2, 2012 8:34 AM
608	Every year we have a sermon on relationships, it mentions the Paul says "it is better to be single" in....ephesians i think....but i dont beleive that my church truly beleives this, with everyone encouraging peoplemtomget married. As practically the only single person in my age group at church this is hard	May 2, 2012 8:14 AM
609	Me and one other guy tried to express how lonley it is when there is no non-formal socialising for singles but it doesnt seem to have much impact. That has been my experience at every church I have been to no matter the denomination or size!	May 2, 2012 8:09 AM
610	Had one conversation with a minister where he really encouraged me to hope and to hold on to the hope. He related an experience he had had where he had been given hope by a friend and could see his way forward. I found this encouraging	May 2, 2012 8:09 AM

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611	Our Vicar organised a talk on singleness where the speaker came to share her experiences of being a single Christian. it made me rethink my whole focus on serving God, single or otherwise.	May 2, 2012 7:58 AM
612	Yes they were too busy	May 2, 2012 7:52 AM
613	I occasionally mention the loneliness. My church leader looks scared and lost.	May 2, 2012 7:47 AM
614	We had a church survey, and then different groups were asked to come and discuss life in the church. I was invited to the 'single group' to answer the question of whether we were being served and pastored well in our particular season of life.	May 2, 2012 7:45 AM
615	It was a frustrating experience	May 2, 2012 7:45 AM
616	No, it never occurred to me to do that.	May 2, 2012 7:42 AM
617	I have spoken about it when I have had time with them talking about my decisions in life. It has always been taken seriously. i wouldn't say the same of the church family in general.	May 2, 2012 7:40 AM
618	I have never wanted to but have never been asked.	May 2, 2012 7:36 AM
619	I have regular chats with my church leaders on being single, in fact I feel like extended family.	May 2, 2012 7:36 AM
620	i did but as what to they don,t know it the 30 50 ish who have been married they don't know what to about us they looked young, youth and old people. the 30,50 are the peole that do alot of work within the church but finder another life partner is hard i would never go out with a non christian, which makes it harder to fin somone.	May 2, 2012 7:30 AM
621	I've not actually talked about singleness - I have spoken to the leader re other personal issues without any hesitation and having only know him for a few weeks. Very supportive and if I felt drawn to discuss singleness then I'm sure he would be supportive.	May 2, 2012 7:29 AM
622	it was a waste of time, they are all married and just didn't want to see it from a different perspective.	May 2, 2012 7:21 AM
623	All the church leaders are male!	May 2, 2012 7:18 AM
624	I think that singleness is often displayed as a sad situation to be in. A friend at work who is a non Christian said that it appeared to her that most of her Christian friends only got married so that they could have sex without disapproval!	May 2, 2012 7:15 AM
625	Was fruitless	May 2, 2012 7:14 AM
626	We have sessions for married people but nothing for singles	May 2, 2012 6:51 AM
627	I am separated from a born again believer who used to attend our church my leaders have reccomended I divorce	May 2, 2012 6:46 AM
628	My current pastor in very understanding of the issues but having been married for more than 30 years has no real advice to offer. But just being understood by him is encouraging. A previous vicar I instigated a discussion	May 2, 2012 6:31 AM

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	with was not at all understanding, although I can see he was trying. He simply didn't have the life experience to understand the intense loneliness I sometimes feel being single and living alone. Given he was married young and had three kids at home and was a vicar I am aware his life experience simply did not provide him with the tools to help me in any way.	
629	As I think what they have to say is irrelevant.	May 2, 2012 6:30 AM
630	Big church, rarely get to talk to leaders one to one. I have discussed it with my small group leader	May 2, 2012 6:26 AM
631	not really discussed my singleness as i see it as a temporal thing, but have discussed the fact that i would like to find a parnter to both my married vicars./ i was very supported by the church in puyblicising an event that i ran for singles, to help them meet more people likely to be their partners.	May 2, 2012 6:26 AM
632	I could if I wanted to.	May 2, 2012 6:19 AM
633	I did a voluntary year for the church and discussed it at that time.	May 2, 2012 5:41 AM
634	Often find like attracts like so can feel excluded from conversations as they often focus on children/ issues of married life, etc. As the minister is a married man, the single viewpoint is often subtly excluded e.g. sermon illustrations are often from married/ family perspective - little thought given to how sermons may be received by singles eg sermon on husbands should love wives without reference to those who don't have spouses.	Apr 21, 2012 11:12 AM